

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:SWINSHIP:RG

APPROVED BY PM:GSVEST

NEA/ARN - MR. DAY (DRAFT)

PM/MC - MR. ROBINSON (DRAFT)

DOD/DSAA - LT.GEN. FISH (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 194935

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS JO IS SA

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR TROOP-CARRYING HELICOPTERS

REF: MAP AMMAN 1756 JULY 75

1. SUMMARY - US FIRMS ADVISE THAT GOJ SEEKING COMMERCIAL BUY OF TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS. WE ARE SURPRISED AT GOJ OPTING FOR COMMERCIAL OVER FMS SUPPLY (PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF REFTTEL) AND WISH TO ADVISE JORDANIANS AGAINST COMPLICATING CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES WHILE HAWK DEAL PENDING. WE ALSO SEEK YOUR VIEWS ON INTENDED USE OF AIRCRAFT. END OF SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT (MC) HAS RECEIVED SEPARATE BUT PARALLEL REQUESTS FROM UNITED AIRCRAFT AND BOEING REQUESTING ADVISORY OPINIONS ON SALE OF HELICOPTERS TO JORDAN. UNITED (SIKORSKY) STATES GOJ REQUESTED PRICE AND DELIVERY INFORMATION.
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TION ON 12 OR 20 S-65 HELICOPTERS "FOR USE IN INTERNAL

SECURITY AND BORDER PATROL" AND CITES PERSONAL INTEREST OF KING HUSSEIN FOLLOWING USG DEMONSTRATION AT JACKSONVILLE LAST MAY. BOEING CITES MORE GENERAL INFORMATION THAT GOJ HAS REQUIREMENT FOR HELICOPTERS AND PLANS SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR 20 CH-47C TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS AT PRICE IN EXCESS OF \$100 MILLION INCLUDING SPARES, SUPPORT, ETC.

2. IN VIEW OF PAST PREFERENCE OF GOJ FOR PURCHASES UNDER FMS IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DOD DIRECT SUPERVISION OF CONTRACT, WE ARE SURPRISED BY SUDDEN SURFACING OF ALLEGED GOJ INTEREST IN THIS SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL PURCHASE. ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES WE ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO DIVERT PROPOSED FMS CASH PURCHASES INTO COMMERCIAL CHANNELS FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING IN SOME CASES FAVORABLE PRICE AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR JORDANIANS TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION. ANY INDICATION THAT JORDAN IS ATTEMPTING TO EVADE SECTION 36(B) REVIEW WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLICATE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GET CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF HAWK SALE. UNLESS EMBASSY AMMAN POSES OBJECTION, STATE AND DOD WILL COUNSEL JORDANIANS HERE TO LAY OFF THIS AND OTHER POSSIBLE LARGE COMMERCIAL ARMS DEALS FOR THE PRESENT.

3. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY NATURE OF GOJ REQUEST. BOTH HELICOPTERS ARE HEAVY LIFT MILITARY TRANSPORTS CAPABLE OF CARRYING 33 TO 40 OR MORE ARMED TROOPS, AND SQUADRON OF 20 AIRCRAFT COULD HELILIFT NEARLY A BATTALION OF TROOPS, WHICH SEEMS EXCESSIVE CAPACITY FOR NORMAL INTERNAL SECURITY OR BORDER PATROL ACTIVITY. ASIDE FROM POTENTIAL COMBAT USE, HELICOPTER CAPABILITY COULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BEHIND-THE-LINES SUPPORT TO ARABS IN EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. THEREFORE WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF GOJ REQUIREMENTS AND INTENDED USE. FYI. THE 1974-75 JANE'S AIRCRAFT, IN DESCRIBING ONE VERSION OF THE SIKORSKY HELICOPTER, STATES THAT "TYPICAL CARGO LOADS INCLUDE TWO JEEPS, OR TWO HAWK MISSILES WITH CABLE REELS AND CONTROL CONSOLE..." OBVIOUSLY, JORDANIAN INTEREST IN HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS COULD COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS IN RESOLVING THE HAWK MISSILE PROBLEMS. END FYI.

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4. IN THE EVENT THE COMMERCIAL SALE WERE APPROVED, WE ASSUME FUNDS WOULD COME FROM SAUDI ARABIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER SAUDIS HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSAL AND WHAT THEIR EXPECTATIONS MAY BE IN PROVIDING NEW HELILIFT CAPACITY TO CONFRONTATION STATE. SISCO

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